

HI-Q

The LARC Journal

Volume 61

April 1995

Issue 604



CLUB REPEATERS

VE3TBR

Phone: 807-767-7661

Listen: 146.82 MHz

Txmit: 146.22 MHz

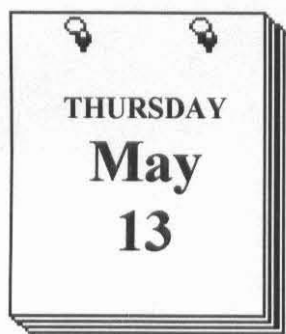
VE3YQT

Phone: 807-767-5492

Listen: 147.06 MHz

Txmit: 146.46 MHz

NEXT MEETING



7 p.m. Room 237
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

Shortwaves

No March club meeting was held due to the overlap with the Nordic Ski Championships.

The March issue of *HI-Q* was delivered late because of a dispute with Canada Post over the way the newsletter was being mailed. It seems that some sorting outlets have no problem but the local one does. So, we are reverting back to the use of envelopes. The envelope's weight puts us close to the 30 gram weight limit for first class postage. We are really pushing it when extras are included with *HI-Q*.

By the time you read this, the 1995 Nordic World Ski Championships will have come and gone. The LARC was a very active participant in the event providing the Net Control and various other radio and computer services.

Certain people, who were the chiefs of their groups and who bore the brunt of the pressure months prior to the Championships, deserve to be recognized. First, Mike Nawrocki, VE3ZG, Chief of Radio and Marion Nawrocki, VE3MJN,

Assistant Chief of Radio. Mike and Marion were responsible for several hundred radios and frequency assignments, which were finally completed on the last Wednesday of the Nordics.

And, our Chief of Net Control, Skip Wright, VE3BBS. He managed the scheduling of 30 volunteers and the setup and smooth running of Net Control. Skip had to get the net control trailer up and running in only a couple of days.

During the course of the operations, Net Control handled hundreds of logged messages and probably just as much unlogged traffic. Most of us who worked for

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1994/95 LARC

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1881-1972

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Membership Secretary:	John Watson, VE3GTIX	683-3199
Past President:	Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK	345-5856
HI-Q Editor:	Robert Mazur, VA3ROM	344-7731

Voyageur Award

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, in co-operation with the City of Thunder Bay, is offering the Thunder Bay Voyageur Award to any station working or monitoring at least 5 Thunder Bay stations. The award is an attractive 8.5" by 11" parchment scroll, truly a complement to any radio shack.

Send a copy of your log with call signs, dates, times, frequencies and \$2.00 to the Awards Manager at the club address listed below.

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published September through June by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., (LARC) an Ontario registered, non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in HI-Q are those of the authors. The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted. Material in HI-Q may be copied for non-profit use by the amateur radio community, provided that credit is given to the author and source.

Contributions related to amateur radio, in particular those articles of interest to northwestern Ontario amateurs, are encouraged. Material may be submitted in the form of manuscripts with drawings or photographs or on disk in WordPerfect® format or an ASCII text file. Files may also be submitted by fax to 807-345-2688 or packet radio BBS VA3ROM@VE3TKA.#NON.ON.CAN.NA. Send your material or dated announcements no later than the 20th of the month in which it is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, HI-Q accepts advertising at the following per issue rates: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your camera-ready copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising that appears in HI-Q does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service by the LARC.

LARC membership fees, determined annually, are set for this year as follows: Regular—\$30.00, Associate—\$20.00, Associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, Students (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and Family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member at the same address. HI-Q is sent to all LARC members, except that only one copy is mailed to each address.

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

The LARC owns and operates 2 VHF repeaters, VE3TBR 146.82(-) located atop St. Joseph's Heritage and VE3YQT 147.06(-) located atop Mount Baldy.

The club mailing address is: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc. • P.O. Box 2571 • Thunder Bay, ON • Canada.

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any length of time in the trailer will have many long term and hopefully fond memories of those 2 weeks.

On opening day, we lost the CRC trunk due to grid lock overload, had a power failure (a 200 amp. fuse went nuclear!) and had numerous calls for medical aid. Over 60,000 people attended the Nordic Championships, making it a resounding success, despite all the problems along the way prior to and during the event.

We also managed to get involved in a few international problems. A lot of ambassadors and VIPs from the competing countries had special requirements which required tactful handling.

The weather proved to be our worst enemy. The unseasonably warm temperatures melted an incredible amount of snow and forced the closure of the 2 parking lots to the Big Thunder site. The organizers were able to reroute the parking and shuttle buses and managed to scrap up some extra snow to keep the hill and cross-country trails functioning. Several thousand pounds of wood chips were used to soak up the water and mud so people could move around the site.

At the end of the Nordics, many agencies which we dealt with were very grateful for the services of the amateur radio operators. It was a real learning experience for all those involved. It was also a very enjoyable experience to be a volunteer and to put to use the skills and talents that are not normally pushed to the limit.—Ed.

HI-Q SUBMISSIONS

HI-Q is looking for pictures, anecdotes and other personal notes about your experiences or adventures. Tell us about yourself. Isn't that why you got into ham radio—to communicate with others?

NW ONT. ARES NET

The northwestern Ontario ARES HF Net on 3750 kHz at 2015 hours local time is simultaneously rebroadcast on 2 metres, 147.500 MHz, by Tim, VE3WCT and Sandy, VE3WSL..

CLUB HELPS

The LARC has available, for club members, several video tapes on working satellites, packet radio and DXing.

Contact Terry, VE3TKA
807-577-9439

2 METRE MINI-NET

The LARC 2 metre mini-net meets every Monday evening at 1900 hours local time (7:00 p.m.), on the VE3YQT repeater, 147.060 MHz (-). Do join us!

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The Russians are Coming!

At least we hope that they are. Plans are being made to have radio amateurs from the Irkutsk Radio Club meet with radio amateurs from the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club in July or August of this year. We are now into fund raising, which we hope will be successful.

The period of time that they will be here will dictate the events that we can schedule. We are looking at various activities which would involve the amateur community.

A district hamfest, harbour cruise, Old Fort William tour, bar-b-ques and seminars are being planned. Discussions on the newer aspects of amateur radio, shack visits and entertaining at various amateur residences are also being considered. The amazing thing is that they would most likely enjoy a club meeting and of course the real meeting afterwards at Boston Pizza!

All of these are things we take for granted as fun and easy to do. To our Russian friends, these would be luxuries, indeed. We will keep any commercial entertainment to a minimum, not just to avoid cost but to give the Russian amateurs a flavour of our lifestyles and homes.

We want to give them as much exposure to district amateurs as we can. Of course, we will have to give them a chance to catch their breaths between activities. I think that the main goal is to make the visit rewarding, informative and entertaining for them and us.

For all of us, it will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for dialogue on culture and amateur radio. We need your support to fulfill our goals. Don't hesitate. We are working on a short time frame but I know that we can do it and raise the necessary funds.

73, Pat, VA3GD.

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have much time for working with his radio but he did enter the Canada Day Contest and placed third in Canada. At this time, he also became a Director of the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation [CARF]. Bob wanted to help CARF merge with the Canadian Radio Relay League [CRRL] to form one organization representing amateur radio operators across Canada. After two years of rigorous negotiation, the two organizations joined to become Radio Amateurs of Canada [RAC]. In 1987, due to a discussion about astronomy at Confederation College, Bob started teaching the course to beginners.

In April, 1989, Bob retired at the age of 65 years. In "retirement", Bob is a member of the Lakehead Aeromodelers Remote Flying Club. He is a member of the Thunder Bay Branch [which he founded] of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He is a member of the Rotary Club. Bob is a director of the Northwestern Ontario Senior Citizens Amateur Radio Club. He is on the Advisory Board of the 55 Plus Centre. He is a director of the 55 Plus Centre Food Program. Bob is a director of Compu-Talk Net [teaching senior citizens about computers].

On top of all this, as already mentioned, Bob is a director of Radio Amateurs of Canada and he is a member of our own Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. Bob, because you are one of us, we all wish you, *Happy Birthday!*

A Ham is Born!

John, VE3GTX and Carol Watson are the proud new parents of a baby boy, Zachary Allen. Zachary was born on March 19th at 3:18 a.m. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 6-1/2 oz. The attending doctor was Dr. Paul Dupuis, who also had to do double duty at the Nordic World Ski Championships!

Congratulations! John and Carol and to your families.—Ed.



*The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club is a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada.
Support and protect your hobby by joining today!*

1995 Sibley Ski Tour

The 1995 Sibley Ski Tour was my first public service radio event. Hopefully, there will be many more of them. Up at 5 a.m. and on the road. I went mechanical and just barely made it to the home QTH, where Ian, VA3RIM came to the rescue and drove us to the rendezvous point for breakfast.

The hero of the day, turned out to be Mark, VE3VUK. He showed up with his truck and snowmobile, plus a pencil and pad for me to record bib numbers. Mark and I were at checkpoint 4 (CP4) and Ian, VA3RIM was at checkpoint 5 (CP5). Ask Ian about his "ride on the wild side" with a couple of would-be I-500 snowmobilers. They dumped Ian not once but twice from his sled and bloodied another passenger with him.

During the course of the race, 3 medevacs were conducted from CP4 and one serious case of frostbite from CP5. The snowmobile at CP5 blew a bearing, so Mark's machine became very important as he did trail sweeps and helped evacuate skiers and equipment back to the finish line.

Moe, VA3MOB had the worst checkpoint on the course. For some reason, her area was windy and cold compared to the rest of the checkpoints. She also had to go to work that afternoon, so it was a very long day for her.

Norm, VE3XRC had his usual CP1 position. However, at that checkpoint the first groups of

skiers are coming through so fast that you can't get their bib numbers. You might get one or two of the leaders and some of the others following. At CP4 the first 5 skiers came through like one and Mark had to call them off for me to write down. We got the last bib numbers off the backs of the skiers!

Glen, VE3ICY had the best spot on the course at his checkpoint as the skiers had to loop around his spot for the 20k and 50k races.

Back at net control, Skip, VE3BBS and Bill, VE3LMV had it nice and cosy in their vehicles at the finish line. Although we made them work really hard sending in position reports, medevac requests and checkpoint supply problems.

The last skier on the course, did not want to quit. After telling Mark that he was fine, he plowed into a snowbank but managed to stagger in just before 5 p.m. After loading Mark's truck, we headed out and drove right into an accident. A station wagon had swerved off of the road and was hung up in a snowbank. We tried to pull him out but he was stuck really good.

A couple of quick sodas at a local roadside cafe and Mark dropped me off at home just before 7 p.m. Altogether, it was a very enjoyable day. If you haven't tried public service radio work, why not give it a try? You just can't describe the enjoyment of it until you get into the thick of things!—Ed.

FOR SALE

PK232 MBX TNC. All cables, manuals and software for hookup to Commodore 64.

Asking \$300.00

Contact Harold, VE3XIC via Packet 2m or VE3TKA BBS

FOR SALE

Kenwood TR9000 2m all mode rig. Asking \$400.00 or may accept trade for dual band handheld.

Contact Harold, VE3XIC via Packet 2m or VE3TKA BBS

FOR SALE

PRO 34 scanner (Realistic), 200. Scan speed has been modified. 2- Commodore C64 computers and disk drives.

Contact Harold, VE3XIC via Packet 2m or VE3TKA BBS

HAMFEST NOTICE

Duluth area amateurs are holding their annual hamfest in Superior, WI. Date is Saturday, May 6th. Location not available but talk-in will most likely be available on the local repeater(s).

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Personality of the Month

Bob Bishop, VE3JAB

BY IAN, VA3RIM

Bob Bishop, VE3JAB is a Director of Radio Amateurs of Canada [RAC] and he is a member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

Bob was born on April 24, 1924 in Regina, Saskatchewan. His father was a postman. Bob says that he was a marginal student in school with marks just above the 60% level. He attended a technical high school where he learned the basics of woodworking, electricity, machine shop, motor mechanics and drafting. These still remain part of his hobbies although he has added greatly to this list. His father introduced him to stamp collecting and model airplane building.

While going to school, Bob was a member of the YMCA and was a member of the first Y Boys Club. The YMCA held an annual fair in which he became involved as a director. All the directors were high school students and each director was responsible for one of the twenty entry sections. Bob was Director of Aquatics and conducted age class swimming meets and he produced the annual water show. As a member of the Regina Boat Club, Bob was a competitive swimmer, canoeist, sailor and then a shell racing champion in single and double shells.

During the summers, the Bishop family spent time at Regina Beach about 40 miles north of Regina.



The summer resort had an amateur radio operator who had a great tower and beam antenna. The shack was all cabinets and tubes and operated at the legal limit of 1000 watts. Mr. Rodgers was the owner operator and when asked what the antenna was all about, he invited Bob to visit him again and see the wonders of amateur radio but Bob could not do this because the War came and when Bob returned home, Mr. Rodgers had become a Silent Key.

In February, 1942, Bob left high school in Grade 11 and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and spent a year training for Aircrew and graduated as an Officer. The presentation of his wings was made by Air Vice Marshall, Billy Bishop [the renowned World War I, Canadian Air Ace, Bob's second cousin]. Years later, Bob documented the family tree and now has provided the Billy Bishop Museum in Orillia, Ontario with the document. Upon receiving his wings, Bob then spent the next

three and one half years in India, Burma and China. When he returned to Canada, he finished his Grade 12 and then in 1947 Bob enrolled at McGill University in Montreal.

Having grown-up on the prairies during the Depression years of the Dirty Thirties, Bob had to find ways of earning money and so at university he used his photography skills to do this. Instead of taking portraits of individual people, he would take portraits of groups of people such as the basketball team and then he would sell these pictures to each person in the photograph!

During the summers, Bob was employed as Assistant to the Director of Swimming and Water Safety in Saskatchewan. Bob graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and went on to further studies at Springfield University in Massachusetts. For even more learning Bob went to the University of Oklahoma in Nebraska. Bob's first job after graduation was in Calgary, Alberta with the Alberta Red Cross as Director of Swimming and Water Safety.

About this time in 1951, Bob was married and learned that the uncle of the bride was Al, VE5AQ from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. One day, Bob happened to be in the right place at the right time and

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was asked to become the manager of a large company called Mechanical Drywall-Canada. This led to his working in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. During this time, Bob developed a lasting interest in astronomy and he even ground a six inch parabolic mirror by hand to be used in exploring outer space. He still has it. Politics within the company eventually led Bob to leave.

Bob's next job was with the YMCA when he became the Director of the organization in Peterborough, Ontario. While there, Bob wrote to the Department of Transport in Ottawa for some detailed information about how to obtain an amateur radio licence. In that same year, he purchased a Heathkit radio transmitter which he hoped to use with a Hallicrafter receiver but as things happened he found himself too busy and so he sold the kit. He had to concentrate on his job with the YMCA which eventually led to his becoming the YMCA director in Edmonton, Alberta. After that he became the YMCA director in Port Arthur, Ontario and then with the amalgamation of Port Arthur and Fort William, he became the YMCA director for the City of Thunder Bay.

While in Thunder Bay, fortune once again smiled on Bob. He left the Y and joined the Tom Jones Construction Company where he became the project expeditor responsible for the refurbishing of Minaki Lodge north of Kenora, Ontario. While working there, he

met Woody Linton and Bob found that they both wanted to become ham radio operators. They held study sessions at Bob's place from January to late April in 1976. Bob had a Heath receiver and a recently constructed iambic keyer. Each of these components were their means to practice Morse code. It was in June, 1976 when they telephoned the Kenora Department of Transport to take the test. The examiner agreed to go to Minaki after Bob had promised a first-hand tour of Minaki Lodge which was nearing completion.

Bob returned to Thunder Bay, Ontario in late May and it took until June 26, 1976 to get his "passed" results from Kenora and then he became known as VE3JAB. [Woody became known as VE3JJA]. The uncle of Bob's bride, Al, VE5AQ even loaned Bob a Hallicrafter radio transmitter! Bob now took an electronics course at Confederation College and built a number of Heathkits which are still in operation today. Bob erected a 48 foot tower with a Mosley TA33 1000 watt triband rotatable antenna and he began "talking to the world." On August 17, 1976, Bob earned his Advanced Radio Licence.

Having obtained his amateur radio licence, Bob quickly began to use it. By the end of 1982, Bob had made 10,319 radio contacts around the world. A few places that know Bob, VE3JAB are Maricibo, India, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Bob has had many wonderful experiences with amateur radio but one incident

should be mentioned. On December 2, 1976, Bob was working 21.415 MHz at 2230Z when he heard emergency traffic from VO1ROP. A ship with ten people on board was in trouble with approximately two hours of float-time left. The ship's position was off of Baffin Island. Bob said, "Please stand by while I contact Air Sea Rescue." Bob telephoned Trenton Air Base and provided their operator with a direct phone patch to VO1ROP. Signals to VO1ROP began to deteriorate and so Bob searched and found an American radio operator who established a clear copy with both Trenton and VO1ROP. Bob then copied until the signal was below S1.

In 1981, Bob began working for the Addiction Research Foundation and was sent to Sault Ste. Marie where he became the Director for the Algoma Region. It was here that he became the editor of the Sault Ste. Marie Amateur Radio Club newsletter. While in that city, Bob was responsible for obtaining a New Horizons grant for senior citizens to purchase radio and computers a feat that he had already accomplished once while still in Thunder Bay.

On May 5, 1985, Bob came back to Thunder Bay. This time he became the coordinator of Employee Assistance Programs for the Addiction Research Foundation covering all of northern Ontario. Because of the great amount of travelling that was involved with his job, Bob did not

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Radio Log

BY SKIP, VE3BBS

Because of the tight deadline, and the amount of information to sift through, articles on the Nordics will be in next month's issue of HI-Q. Also, Skip, Chief of Net Control, has earned a well deserved rest, hi, hi.—Ed.

As I sit here in front of a screen, tabulating the effort put forth by the group of volunteers who worked the Nordic Net Control station, Radio Accreditation and Battery Distribution during the past couple of weeks, it never ceases to amaze me the amount of unselfish dedication and the depth of talent possessed by some members of this organization.

With regard to public service events, it has to rank as the biggest contribution in the club's 60 year history. Some 1,300 pieces of traffic were easily handled by 30 radio amateurs and members of their families. Over 2,400 hours of operation were logged in Net Control, Radio Accreditation and Battery Distribution. Not to mention the countless hours put in by people prior to the actual World Ski Championships.

On most days, an average of 13 to 15 volunteers a day, gave freely of their time and expertise, working 15 to 18 hours a day to make our end of the system work and to get the job done. On "normal" days, Net Control ran from 0730 to 1730, Radio Accreditation and the Battery Distribution were at their posts by 0630 and usually ran until 1830.

On opening day, night training evenings as well as the historic night jumping event, Net Control did not shut down until 2300.

We coordinated the communications on low band VHF (46-48 MHz), an 800 MHz trunk system, 400 MHz repeaters and several VHF tie-in radios. As well, Net Control was equipped with a fax machine, a 2-line phone and a computer system with laser printer to keep the databases updated daily.

In all, some 30 different radio frequencies were used during the Nordics by some 350 to 375

Nordic personnel equipped with handheld radios.

Rob, VE3FLB, one of the net controllers, is in the process of completing a full report on the complete operation and it will be available with photographs, some of the problems encountered and some amusing anecdotes for next month's HI-Q.

In closing, I wish to say that I was extremely proud to be associated with all the club's volunteers for this event. There is just no adequate way to say, "Thank you all, for a job well done!"—Skip.



Net Control Trailer, 120m Ski Jump Hill in background.

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Support and protect your hobby by joining today!

Prez Sez

It's been a while since I have written an article for *HI-Q* so this one is long overdue.

The 1995 Nordics are over and I would really like to congratulate everyone who helped out. I won't go into names because I'm sure that I would miss someone. As a club this was probably the biggest venture that we have taken on. All of the operators handled Net Control extremely well and we can be very proud of a job well done. Once again, thanks to all those volunteers who helped out.

I guess the next major operation that we, as a club, will be involved in, will be the 1997 Boy Scout Jamboree. We are now in the planning stages and will be talking to the Scouting organization shortly and get the details of what is required. With approximately 11,000 boy scouts and another 3,000 people in the support groups this, I think, will attract more people than the Nordics did.

Because of the Nordics, the Grand Marais link was put on hold for a couple of weeks. I have just finished tuning the duplexers and will be working on getting the rest of the system together as soon as possible.

Many members have contacted me about the interference on our repeaters lately. I can assure you it is being looked into. In the meantime, the best thing that the members can do is to keep cool and don't acknowledge that anything is going on.

73, Terry, VE3TKA.

1995 NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS NET CONTROL STATISTICS

BY SKIP, VE3BBS & NORM, VE3XRC

Date	Traffic	Person Hrs	Personnel	Attendance
March 6	9	130	13	0
March 7	51	150	15	0
March 8	57	120	12	0
March 9	199	248	17	8,833
March 10	84	156	15	3,310
March 11	76	176	17	4,847
March 12	146	130	13	8,123
March 13	100	125	12	2,965
March 14	118	155	15	6,528
March 15	142	306	17	2,633
March 16	127	206	18	11,381
March 17	78	154	14	3,179
March 18	85	185	17	7,543
March 19	55	165	24	4,540
TOTALS	1,327	2,408	219	63,882

NOTE: The numbers shown above as logged traffic does not represent the total amount of traffic passed. In many instances, traffic was passed which was not logged. The total amount of traffic passed during the Nordics could easily be in the neighbourhood of 2,500 pieces.

NOTE: As well as the minimum of 6 operators in the Net Control trailer at any give time working in shifts, there were 4 amateurs in Radio Accreditation and 2 amateurs at the Battery Position at the cross country technical building. In the cases of the opening ceremonies, night ski jump training and night ski jumping competition Net Control was manned for 16 continuous hours. Normal operation of Net Control was from 0700 to 1730 hours, local time. The above hours do not include the preparation time spent over the past 2 years.

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